AN EXTRAORDINARY NEW *HYLA* FROM COLOMBIA

EMMETT REID DUNN

My friend and colleague Hermano Nicéforo-María of the Instituto de La Salle in Bogotá very kindly allowed me to examine some specimens he recently received from Hermano Daniel, Director of the Museo of the Colegio San José in Medellín, among which was a single male of a tree-frog so extraordinary that I could scarcely believe my eyes (and I am a long-time "aficionado" of tree-frogs). It is unquestionable new to science, and may appropriately be called

Hyla phantasmagoria sp. nov.

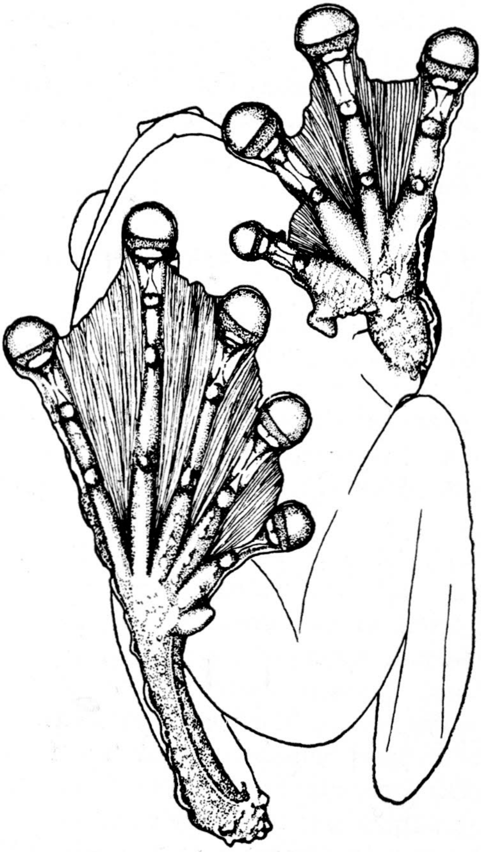
TYPE: An adult male.

TYPE LOCALITY: Rio Cauca, near border of Antioquia and Bolívar.

DIAGNOSIS: A large (male 110 mm.) *Hyla;* skin of head co-ossified with skull (a casque); vomerine teeth in two long, straight, groups; a big, blunt prepollex; hands and feet enormous, fully webbed; disks enormous (finger disk 8,5 mm. in diameter); forearm and tarsus with dermal fringe; comparable only with *Hyla miliaria* of Nicaragua, *Hyla lichenata* of Jamaica, and *Hyla vasta* of Hispaniola.

DESCRIPTION: Adult male; skin of head co-ossified with skull, casque forming a ridge over tympanum but continuous behind with skin; vomerine teeth in two linear groups, almost in contact and reaching out to behind middle of choanae; skin shagreened, with fine circular warts above, coarsely shagreened below; tympanum half the diameter of the eye; snout blunt with prominently raised nostrils; hands with web to disks except for first finger which is short and has a smaller disk; a prominent blunt prepollex; finger disks 8,5 mm. in diameter, larger than eye; toes fully webbed, disks slightly smaller than those of fingers; an irregular dermal fringe on outside edge of forearm and hand, and on tarsus and fifth toe; heel with a number of pointed warts; combined length of femur and tibia 118 mm. (thus heel reaches beyond snout); dark blackish brown above, with obscure marbling; arms and legs almost black, fringe lighter; below brownish black with vermiculations of lighter shade; snout to vent 110 mm.

REMARKS: This *Hyla* whose enormous feet and hands, with full webs and great disks, surpass in actuality the rather imaginary woodcut in old Natural Histories of the "flyng frog" of the East Indies, is very different from anything hitherto recorded from South America. The vomerine teeth are those of *fuhrmanni* Peracca (which has been referred to the genus *Hyloscirtus*) and those of another



Hyla phantasmagoria Dunn.
Natural size.

Drawn by Inés de Zulueta.

undescribed form from northern Colombia, but the other characters are very different. True, the sacral diapophyses are undilated in these three forms, and they are supposed to be expanded in *Hyla*, but I find them exactly like the diapophyses of *Hyla crepitans* and of *Hyla maxima*. The characters of size and of rugosity and big disks and webbing resemble those of *Hyla miliaria* (a single specimen known from "Nicaragua"), of *Hyla lichenata* (a high tree form of Jamaica, breeding in bromeliads), and of *Hyla vasta* of Hispaniola. As *miliaria* has no casque, and as *lichenata* has a casque with an elevated posterior border, the present form is most like *vasta*. I believe, however, that the similarities are parallelisms; characters adapting frogs to live in the roof of the forest, under conditions of high evaporation rate. In order to cope with the aridity of the environment they must become large and rugose, like toads. The great disks are obviously correlated with size of frog and climbing ability.

I am indebted to Señorita Inés de Zulueta for the excellent and accurate life-size drawing of the hand and foot.